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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/62/419, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 23rd and 31st meetings, on 6 November and 5 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.23 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.20 and A/C.2/62/L.42

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/62/L.20), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 of 23 December 2003, 59/231 of 22 December 2004, 60/195 of 22 December 2005 and 61/198 of 20 December 2006 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration its resolution

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57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Reaffirming* the Hyogo Declaration, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and the common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future, as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction,

"*Expressing its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular in developing countries,

"*Recognizing* that disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development,

"*Emphasizing* that disaster risk reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* the clear relationship between development, disaster risk reduction, disaster response and disaster recovery and the need to continue to deploy efforts in all these areas,

"*Recognizing also* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to appropriate, advanced, environmentally sound, cost-effective and easy-to-use technologies so as to seek more comprehensive solutions to disaster risk reduction and to effectively and efficiently strengthen their capabilities to cope with disaster risks,

"*Recognizing further* that measures to adapt to climate change can contribute to disaster risk reduction, and emphasizing the importance of strengthening the resilience of communities against natural disasters through disaster risk reduction programmes,

"*Stressing* the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its relevant provisions on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

"*Recognizing* the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capability to cope with disaster risks,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"2. *Recalls* that the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters include the provision of assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

"3. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the need for a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming; for the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards; and for a systematic incorporation of risk-reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes;

"4. *Calls upon* the international community to fully implement the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action;

"5. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional bodies and other international organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as relevant civil society organizations, to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action;

"6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, international financial institutions and international organizations to integrate the goals of and take into full account the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes, making use of existing coordination mechanisms, and to assist developing countries with those mechanisms to design and implement, as appropriate, disaster risk-reduction measures with a sense of urgency;

"7. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating measures to adapt to climate change into actions to reduce the risks from natural disaster, and calls upon the international community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

"8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and regional banks and other regional and international organizations to support, in a timely and sustained manner, the efforts led by disaster-stricken countries for disaster risk reduction, in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes;

"9. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters, including the implementation of and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

"10. *Also recognizes* the efforts made by Member States to develop national and local capacities to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action, including through the establishment of national platforms for disaster

reduction, and encourages Member States that have not done so to develop such capacities;

"11. *Stresses* that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters;

"12. *Welcomes* the regional and subregional initiatives developed in order to achieve disaster risk reduction, and reiterates the need to further develop regional initiatives and risk-reduction capacities of regional mechanisms where they exist and to strengthen them and encourage the use and sharing of all existing tools;

"13. *Also welcomes* the launch of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery in September 2006, through the collaboration between the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the World Bank;

"14. *Calls upon* the international community to support the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards;

"15. *Takes note with interest* of the launch of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held at Geneva from 5 to 7 June 2007, which proved to be a useful forum to enhance awareness of disaster risk reduction, share experiences and learn from good practice, assess progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework, identify remaining gaps and identify actions to accelerate national and local implementation;

"16. *Encourages* Member States to increase their commitment to the effective implementation of the Hyogo Framework, making full use of the Strategy system's mechanisms, such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

"17. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective and engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly at the disaster risk-reduction stage;

"18. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction;

"19. *Encourages* the international community to provide adequate voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, in the effort to ensure adequate support for the follow-up activities to the Hyogo Framework for Action, and to review the current usage and feasibility for the expansion of the Fund, inter alia, to assist disaster-prone developing countries to set up national strategies for disaster risk reduction;

"20. *Encourages* Governments, multilateral organizations, international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to systematically invest in disaster risk reduction with a view to implementing the objectives of the Strategy;

"21. *Stresses* the importance of disaster risk reduction and subsequent growing demands on the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, with a view to taking steps towards creating a stable financial base, recognizes the importance of considering alternative methods of financing the secretariat, such as assessed contributions, in particular to cover some of its core functions, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a proposal for that purpose in his next report on this subject;

"22. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the result of the Global Survey of Early Warning Systems;

"23. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that early warning systems are integrated in their national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, and calls upon the developed countries to strengthen the capacity of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"24. *Stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, educational and training programmes for natural disaster risk reduction, access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

"25. *Emphasizes* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief and to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction, and stresses the importance of implementing programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and disaster risk-reduction management in the most vulnerable regions, particularly in developing countries prone to natural disasters;

"26. *Stresses* the need to address risk reduction of and vulnerabilities to all natural hazards, including geological and hydrometeorological hazards, in a comprehensive and balanced manner;

"27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/62/L.42), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.20.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Ireland, in her capacity as facilitator, orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

6. Also at its 31st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.42, as orally corrected (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.42, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.20 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 of 23 December 2003, 59/231 of 22 December 2004, 60/195 of 22 December 2005 and 61/198 of 20 December 2006 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Reaffirming the Hyogo Declaration,[2] the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[3] and the common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future,[4] as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction,

Reaffirming its role of providing policy guidance on the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling that the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction has been serving as the main forum within the United Nations system for devising strategies and policies for disaster reduction and ensuring complementarity of action by agencies involved in disaster reduction, mitigation and preparedness,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular in developing countries,

Emphasizing that disaster risk reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important cross-cutting element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

Recognizing the clear relationship between development, disaster risk reduction, disaster response and disaster recovery and the need to continue to deploy efforts in all these areas,

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[1] Resolution 60/1.

[2] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2.

[4] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, annex II.

Recognizing also the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to appropriate, advanced, environmentally sound, cost-effective and easy-to-use technologies so as to seek more comprehensive solutions to disaster risk reduction and to effectively and efficiently strengthen their capabilities to cope with disaster risks,

Recognizing further that certain measures for disaster risk reduction in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action can also support adaptation to climate change, and emphasizing the importance of strengthening the resilience of nations and communities to natural disasters through disaster risk-reduction programmes,

Stressing the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[5] and its relevant provisions on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

Taking note with great interest and appreciation of the holding, at Geneva from 5 to 7 June 2007, of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,[6]

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capability to cope with disaster risks,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[7]

2. *Recalls* that the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration[2] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[3] include the provision of assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the need for a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming; for the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards; and for a systematic incorporation of risk-reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to increase its efforts to fully implement the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action;

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[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[6] *Acting with Common Purpose: Proceedings of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, 5-7 June 2007* (ISDR/GP/2007/7).

[7] A/62/320.

5. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional bodies and other international organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and volunteers, the private sector and the scientific community, to increase efforts to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and invites international financial institutions and regional and international organizations, to integrate the goals of and take into full account the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes, making use of existing coordination mechanisms, and to assist developing countries with those mechanisms to design and implement, as appropriate, disaster risk-reduction measures with a sense of urgency;

7. *Also calls upon* the United Nations system, and invites the international financial institutions and regional banks and other regional and international organizations, to support, in a timely and sustained manner, the efforts led by disaster-stricken countries for disaster risk reduction in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes;

8. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters, including the implementation of and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

9. *Also recognizes* the efforts made by Member States to develop national and local capacities to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action, including through the establishment of national platforms for disaster reduction, and encourages Member States that have not done so to develop such capacities;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of coordinating climate change adaptation with relevant natural disaster risk-reduction measures, and invites Governments and relevant international organizations to integrate these considerations in a comprehensive manner into, inter alia, development plans and poverty eradication programmes, and invites the international community to support the ongoing efforts of developing countries in this regard;

11. *Stresses* that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters;

12. *Welcomes* the regional and subregional initiatives developed in order to achieve disaster risk reduction, and reiterates the need to further develop regional initiatives and risk-reduction capacities of regional mechanisms where they exist and to strengthen them and encourage the use and sharing of all existing tools;

13. *Also welcomes* the launch of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a partnership of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system managed by the World Bank on behalf of the participating donor partners and other partnering stakeholders, as a significant initiative to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

14. *Calls upon* the international community to support the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards;

15. *Takes note with great interest and appreciation* of the holding, at Geneva from 5 to 7 June 2007, of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,[6] the successor mechanism of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, as a useful forum for Member States and other stakeholders to assess progress made in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, enhance awareness of disaster risk reduction, share experiences and learn from good practice, identify remaining gaps and identify actions to accelerate national and local implementation;

16. *Encourages* Member States to increase their commitment to the effective implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, making full use of the Strategy system's mechanisms, such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective and engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly at the disaster risk-reduction stage;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction;

19. *Encourages* the international community to continue providing adequate voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund in the effort to ensure adequate support for the follow-up activities to the Hyogo Framework for Action;

20. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the review conducted at the request of Member States on the current usage and feasibility for the expansion of the Trust Fund, inter alia, to assist disaster-prone developing countries in setting up national strategies for disaster risk reduction, which indicated that the Trust Fund is an appropriate vehicle for expanded action of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system, at the global and regional levels, in support of countries' implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

21. *Encourages* Governments, multilateral organizations, international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to systematically invest in disaster risk reduction with a view to implementing the objectives of the Strategy;

22. *Stresses* the importance of disaster risk reduction and subsequent growing demands on the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the need to review the current methods of financing the secretariat, with a view to stabilizing its financial base, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a proposal for that purpose in his next report on this subject;

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the result of the Global Survey of Early Warning Systems,[8] and encourages Member States to integrate early warning systems into their national disaster risk-reduction strategies and plans, and invites the international community to support the secretariat of the

[8] A/62/340.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in its role in facilitating the development of early warning systems;

24. *Stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, educational and training programmes for natural disaster risk reduction, access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

25. *Emphasizes* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief and to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction, and stresses the importance of implementing programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and disaster risk-reduction management in the most vulnerable regions, particularly in developing countries prone to natural disasters;

26. *Stresses* the need to address risk reduction of and vulnerabilities to all natural hazards, including geological and hydrometeorological hazards, in a comprehensive manner;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Sustainable development".